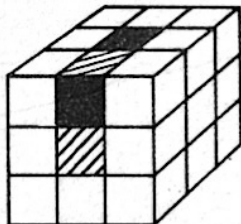
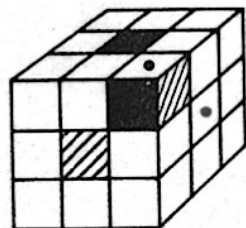
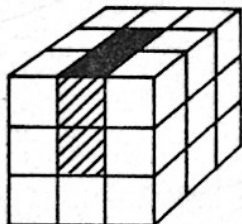


A cube is said to be placed or positioned correctly when it is on the corner or edge where it belongs. It may, however, be placed correctly and not be oriented correctly. A cube is said to be oriented correctly when it is positioned correctly and the colors match those of the adjacent center cubes. This is the desired final situation. When all cubes are positioned and oriented correctly, the puzzle is solved.

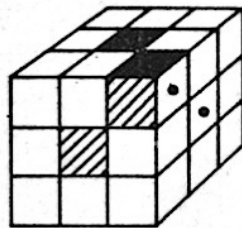
EDGES: CORRECTLY POSITIONED
BUT INCORRECTLY ORIENTED



CORRECTLY POSITIONED
AND ORIENTED



CORNERS: CORRECTLY POSITIONED
BUT INCORRECTLY ORIENTED



CORRECTLY POSITIONED
AND ORIENTED

For example, the cubes on the left show correctly positioned edge and corner cubes that are incorrectly oriented. The cubes on the right show these edge and corner cubes correctly positioned and correctly oriented.

The method described in this book separates the problem of placing and orienting the 20 movable cubes into 5 steps. Each of the 5 steps involves the placement and orientation of 4 cubes. At any of the 5 steps, cubes that have been placed and oriented in previous steps are only temporarily disturbed.

There is no concern about cubes in later steps until that step is reached. Moreover, each cube in the first 3 sets is placed and oriented individually. In reality, then, the problem is broken up into 12 much smaller problems of placing and orienting individual cubes. It is only for the last 2 sets of 4 cubes that more than 1 cube must be placed and oriented simultaneously.